

Prudhoe Urban District Council.

County of Northumberland.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1950.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.



Chairman : Councillor H. PEART, J.P.

Members : Councillors J. L. STOKOE.
 T. NICHOLSON.
 W. FINDLEY.
 W. E. GARRETT.
 J. J. HESLOP.
 J. MALCOM.
 N. P. PARKER.



OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

W. G. TWEDDLE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

CLERK AND SHORTHAND-TYPIST : Miss J. GRAY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Prudhoe Urban District Council :—

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	3,889
Population ...	...	...	...	...	9,486
Inhabited Houses ...	...	...	...	...	2,522

The main occupations in the area are Coal Mining and Chemical Works.

The District consists of the following Parishes with acreage as given :—

Prudhoe ...	...	...	...	1,457,368 acres.
Prudhoe Castle ...	...	...	...	644,944 „
Eltringham ...	...	...	...	355,658 „
Mickley ...	...	...	...	1,430,554 „

The population shows an increase of 143 as compared with that for the year 1949, and is the highest recorded, with the exception of 1927, when the population was 9,526.

BIRTHS.

				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	66	65	131
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	1	3	4
				67	68	135

The Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births in excess of deaths during 1950 was 38, compared with 62 in 1949.

Birth Rate.

There is a slight decrease in the birth rate to 14.23 per 1,000 population per annum in 1950 as compared with 16.16 per 1,000 population per annum in 1949. The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 15.8 per 1,000 population per annum.

The number of illegitimate births, remains the same as in 1949.

The still birth rate was .52 per 1,000 population per annum compared with .32 per 1,000 population per annum in 1949 and a still birth rate of .37 for England and Wales in 1950.

Still Births.

				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				3	2	5

The number of still births increased from 3 in 1949 to 5 in 1950.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The total number of deaths registered during 1950 was 97 compared with 89 in 1949. The death rate was 10.2 per 1,000 population per annum compared with 9.5 per 1,000 population per annum in 1949. The death rate for England and Wales for 1950 was 11.6 per 1,000 population per annum.

Causes of Death.

					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	60	37
Tuberculosis, respiratory			...	...	1	—
„ other		...	...	...	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal Infections			...	...	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis		...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases			...	...	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...		...	...	3	—
„ „ lungs, bronchus	...		...	...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasms, breast	...		...	...	—	—
„ „ uterus	...		...	...	—	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	5	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—
Vascular Lesions of nervous systems			...	...	7	5
Coronary Disease, Angina			...	...	12	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease			...	...	1	1
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	11	7
Other Circulatory Disease		...	...	...	2	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System					1	—
Congenital Malformations			...	...	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...		...	...	5	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
					60	37

Individual Causes of Death.

Heart and circulatory diseases continued to head this list. The number of deaths was 41 compared with 34 in 1949. Deaths from respiratory diseases increased to 9 in 1950 from 6 in 1949.

Malignant Disease.

There was an increase in the number of deaths from this cause to 16 in 1950, as against 10 in 1949 and 13 in 1948. 9 of the deaths are classed as due to "other malignant and lymphatic neo-plasms," 3 respectively to malignant neoplasms of the stomach and of the uterus, and one to that of the lungs.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 Years of Age.

There was no death from this cause in 1950, compared with one death in 1949. The figure for England and Wales was 1.9 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during 1950. The figure for England and Wales was .86 per 1,000 live and still births.

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 7 compared with 8 in 1949.

Five of these deaths occurred during the first month of life (neo-natal deaths), compared with 4 neo-natal deaths in 1949.

Three of the neo-natal deaths in 1950 were due to "Congenital Malformations" and one to "Prematurity."

The Infantile Mortality Rate is thus 51.8 per 1,000 live births compared with a rate of 52.9 in 1949. The death rate of all infants under one year of age in England and Wales per 1,000 live births was 29.8 in 1950 and 32.0 in 1949. (See Table in Report).

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the district shows a welcome progressive decline during the last five years from 67.6 in 1945, 60.8 in 1946, 60.24 in 1947, 51.7 in 1948, 52.9 in 1949 and 51.8 in 1950, but is still higher than that of the country generally.

The decline of one in the total number of infant deaths, and the decline of 16 in the total number of births in 1950 keeps the rate relatively high in this district. In 1950 there were two deaths of infants aged between 4 weeks and 1 years of age, and 4 deaths in 1949 in the same age period.

The use of the sulphonamide drugs and antibiotics has greatly helped in reducing infant deaths from infections, but there still remains the "hard core" of neo-natal deaths, which are largely due to ante-natal factors.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following tables give the position as at 31st December, 1950, and also previous years :—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
				M.	F.	M.	F.	
31st Dec.,	1950	...	...	20	14	9	9	52
31st	„	1949	...	15	8	9	8	40
31st	„	1948	...	16	8	8	10	42
31st	„	1947	...	13	13	11	16	53

Classification of New Notified Cases in 1950.

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
5—10 years	...			1	—	—	—
10—15	„	...		1	1	—	—
15—20	„	...		2	—	—	—
20—25	„	...		—	2	—	—
25—30	„	...		—	2	—	—
35—40	„	...		—	1	—	—
45—50	„	...		1	1	—	1
				5	7	—	1

The register at 31st December, 1950, shows 52 cases made up as follows :—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Age under 2 years				—	—	—	—
2 to 10 years	...			1	—	1	1
10 to 20	„	...		6	3	—	—
20 to 30	„	...		5	5	2	2
30 to 40	„	...		3	3	4	4
40 to 50	„	...		4	3	2	2
Over 50 years	...			1	—	—	—
				20	14	9	9

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis in 1950. This gives a death rate of 0.21 per 1,000 population per annum compared with a death rate for England and Wales of 0.36 per 1,000 population per annum for 1950.

The death rate in the district from this cause in 1949 was 0.42 per 1,000 population per annum.

The death rate thus shows a decline while the number of new notifications in 1950 shows a slight increase. This increase to 13 new notifications in 1950 compared with 10 in 1949 includes two notifications of long term residents in an Institution in the district who had no home address. The number of new notifications (other than institutional) of pulmonary tuberculosis shows a decline of 2 in males and an increase of 3 in females.

In the past 4 years, the number of new notifications has been 13 in 1950, 10 in 1949, 5 in 1948, and 17 in 1947.

Mass Radiography.

The unit operated in the district from February 27th to March 10th, 1950. A total of 622 persons attended, being 214 males, 252 females and 156 schoolchildren (13½ to 15 years), 26 persons were recalled for large films and 0.32% were referred for treatment.

At the previous visit of the unit in 1948, 0.34% people were referred for treatment. It is interesting to note that the percentage of people referred for treatment is very similar for the two years, though there was a very much larger attendance at the first visit in 1948.

A short session of the unit was also held in October.

Particular attention is paid to the housing needs of T.B. patients and their families by the Health Department and if necessary reports of housing conditions brought to the notice of the Housing Committee.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

The notification of these diseases are set out in a separate table in the report.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified was halved in 1950, there being 91 that year, compared with 181 in 1949.

Measles.

Notification of measles totalled 59 in 1950, compared with 100 in 1949, and 38 in 1948.

Whooping Cough.

The number of cases of Whooping Cough decreased to 7 in 1950 from 45 in 1949, and 11 in 1948.

Poliomyelitis.

Three cases of poliomyelitis were notified, one in August, October and November respectively, two were paralytic cases and one non-paralytic. The distribution of the cases were Edgewell, Eltringham and Prudhoe.

All the cases were fortunately of a mild type and made a good recovery.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever in 1950 compared with 33 cases in 1949, 42 in 1948. Two cases were admitted to hospital during the year, as against 25 in 1949.

There has been a marked reduction in the severity of the disease during the last few years and hospitalisation is only necessary in an occasional case.

The incidence of the disease shows a progressive decline. The present methods of control appear adequate as long as the disease remains in its present mild form.

Dysentery.

Only one case of Sonne Dysentery was notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

For the third year in succession no positive case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE DISTRICT WHO WERE
IMMUNISED DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1950.**

	Number of children who completed a full course of Immunisation		Total	Total No. of Children who were given a Reinforcing Injection
	Age at final Injection			
	Under 5 years	5—15 years		
Prudhoe U.D.C.	100	7	107	163

At 31st December, 1950, 85% of the **total** child population had been immunised at some time during their life.

The percentage of immunised children under 5 years of age showed a slight decline to 65% in 1950, from 68% in 1949.

The percentage of immunised children 5—15 years remained at 98% in both years.

There is a distinct danger that the immense reduction in the incidence and mortality of this disease, which has really been phenomenal will make parents much less alive to the risk of the disease.

The Ministry of Health's aim is that at least 75% of babies should be immunised before the end of the first year of life.

At present this is not yet being attained, while the response of parents to immunisation is generally very good indeed, a few are inclined to put it off till the child nears or reaches school age, forgetting the risk to which the child is being exposed during the early years.

During a period of exceptional local prevalence of poliomyelitis, injections would temporarily be suspended, but this has not been at all necessary up-to-date.

Figures given by the Ministry of Health in March, 1951, in regard to the incidence and deaths from Diphtheria in the country generally during the last ten years are outstanding and from a point of interest are quoted below :—

				CASES.	
				(Original uncorrected)	(Corrected)
Deaths.					
1940...	...	...	2,480	46,281	—
1944...	...	...	934	29,949	23,152
1949 (Provisional)	...	...	85	4,971	1,897

One can imagine only a little of the death and suffering which has been avoided by ten years of patient progress and co-operation in immunisation by all concerned, apart from the substantial saving in hospital costs and personnel.

It is hoped that by continued effort this achievement will be sustained and even improved upon.

Vaccination against Small-Pox.

The number of vaccinations done in the district during the last few years is as follows :—in 1950, there was 1 primary vaccination and 10 re-vaccinations ; in 1949, 1 primary vaccination and no re-vaccinations, and in 1948, 3 primary and no re-vaccinations. In view of the possible risk of infection from an occasional case of small-pox, which in these days of rapid travel may occur, the number of vaccinations is extremely small.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.

In 1950, 30 children completed a course of inoculation with pertussis vaccines (including vaccines combined with diphtheria prophylactic) compared with 68 children who received a prophylactic course in 1949.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

					Total Cases Notified.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	15
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	59
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	7
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	2
do. (Non-Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					91
					—

FOOD POISONING.

One small suspected outbreak at a school was thoroughly investigated with negative results. No positive case was notified during the year.

Total number of outbreaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible, with No. of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with No. of out- breaks of each
Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to Walkergate hospital when requiring hospital treatment and isolation.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The examination of Sputum, Swabs and Faeces, Milk and Water is carried out at the Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Bacteriological Reports.

Throat Swabs	...	...	...	...	21
Urine and Faeces Specimens	...	...	...	...	28
Sputum	...	...	...	...	5
					—
					54
					—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was necessary under this section of the Act and under S.50.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES (FOR COMPARISON).

Year	Prudhoe U.D.C.	England & Wales.
1945	67.6	46.0
1946	60.8	43.0
1947	60.24	41.0
1948	51.7	34.0
1949	52.9	32.0
1950	51.8	29.8

INFANT MORTALITY.

Exhaustion, Pink Disease	...	...	11 months	M.
Broncho Pneumonia Gastro Enteritis	...	...	5 months	F.
Meningomyelocoele Congenital	...	...	6 days	M.
Spina Bifida	...	...	12 hours	F.
Congenital Defect of Heart	...	...	1 week	M.
Atelectasis of Lung	...	...	6 hours	M.
Pulmonary atelectasis, Prematurity	...	...	15 hours	F.
				—
				7
				—

TABLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH RATES
AS COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES.

YEAR	General Death Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales
1945	8.9	11.4	67.6	46.0	15.3	16.10
1946	10.16	11.5	60.8	43.0	15.8	19.1
1947	10.1	12.0	60.24	41.0	17.95	20.5
1948	9.2	10.8	51.7	34.0	18.73	17.9
1949	9.5	11.7	52.9	32.0	16.16	16.7
1950	10.2	11.6	51.8	29.8	14.23	15.8

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital for Mentally Defectives.

2. Ambulance Service.

PRUDHOE AMBULANCE.—4, High Row South, Mickley Square.
Tel., Stocksfield 3110.

The Urban District is served directly by an Ambulance stationed at Mickley, and in addition by the Ambulances of the Newburn Station.

NEWBURN AMBULANCES.—Council Offices, Newburn.
Tel., Lemington 74535.

3. Home Help Services.

This service comes under the direct control of the County Council through the South Area Health Administration. During 1950, the total number of cases served in the South Area for varying periods was 425, 66 of these cases resided in the Prudhoe U.D. area.

The cases served comprised 28 of illness, 19 aged and infirm people, 8 of confinement, 3 blind persons, 3 just discharged from hospital, 3 of paralysis, one case of accident, and one of tuberculosis.

4. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—Council Yard, Prudhoe.

Sessions for babies, children, and expectant mothers and for Dental Treatment are held by the Northumberland County Council at the above centre.

Children's Session : Every Wednesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon ;
1-30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Session : 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 1-30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
1st and 3rd Friday, 1-30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.

These services are administered by the Northumberland C.C. There are two District Nurse Midwives working in the Prudhoe U.D. and one General Nurse.

HOUSING.

During 1950 the Council completed 20 houses at their Oaklands Estate, making a total of houses owned by the Authority, 704, of which 283 have been completed since the war. A further 66 houses were under construction, but building work was badly hampered during the latter months of the year by wet weather.

A further 110 houses are to be built on the south side of Oaklands Estate, the roads and sewers for these houses being under construction. It will thus be seen that the Council were making great efforts to increase the housing accommodation in the area.

It was not found possible to take any action in respect of the 310 back-to-back houses, but the National Coal Board carried out a considerable amount of improvement work and repairs.

The condemned houses still occupied, numbered 30. At 31st December, 1950, over 500 persons had applied for Council houses, 200 of these applicants were sub-tenants who had never had a house.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. There are still a number of houses served by standpipes, but during the year 10 houses were provided with internal supplies. The number of houses supplied by standpipes is approximately 70. Additional storage accommodation was in progress at Drawback Reservoir.

Six samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year. In each case, the bacteriological examinations have shown the water to be completely satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The details shown under this section have been compiled by Mr. W. G. Tweddle, Sanitary Officer.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council and Health Committee for the great interest they have shown in the work of my department and for their unfailing support during the year, and to the Sanitary Officer and to the Clerk of the Health Department for their steady work and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st, DECEMBER, 1950.

To Dr. Madge Hopper.,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The year has again shown progress in the field of environmental hygiene. The work carried out is tabulated under the various headings.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	170	
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	
Public Health and Housing Acts				...	...	...	709	
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Public Conveniences		...	...	...	...	...	38	
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	207	
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	
							<hr/>	1,283
Visits re Infectious Diseases		...	...	...	...	...	41	
Visits re Disinfection		...	...	...	...	...	33	
Verminous Premises		...	...	...	...	...	28	
							<hr/>	102

Food and Meat Inspection.

Visits to Slaughter Houses, Butchers, Greengrocers, Grocers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	78
Visits to Ice Cream Premises and Dairies, etc.	...	...			18
					—
					96
					<hr/>
					1,481

No. of Informal Notices served	...	...	221
No. of Informal Notices complied with...	...	...	185
Statutory Notices served	...	...	1
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	1

Rivers and Streams.

Sewage still flows into the River Tyne at Mickley without treatment. The number of houses concerned is, however, small, and none of the houses have W.C's.

Schools.

There are six schools in the district—Low Prudhoe, Eltringham, West Council, Mickley, R.C. School, East Council. Sanitation is generally satisfactory. Water supply is from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Sewerage and Drainage.

A further 20 houses were completed at Oaklands Estate. 390 yards of drains have been laid, and 33 inspection chambers provided in connection with conversion of privies to W.C's. Opportunity was taken to provide inspection chambers wherever possible so that access to the drains could be obtained at any time. 26 old gullies, chiefly of the cesspool type were removed and replaced with self-cleansing types. 11 additional self-cleansing gullies were also provided.

Sewage Disposal.

The following sewage works are owned by the Council :—

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Mickley S. D. Works | (2) Eltringham S. D. Works. |
| (3) Eastwoods S.D. Works. | (3) Low Prudhoe S.D. Works. |

(1) MICKLEY SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Effluent satisfactory. These works are old, and will need some re-construction, if development is carried out at Mickley.

(2) ELTRINGHAM S.D. WORKS.

Effluent satisfactory. 60 houses discharge waste matter to these works.

(3) EASTWOOD S.D. WORKS.

Small works taking waste matter from 12 houses.

(4) LOW PRUDHOE S.D. WORKS.

Considerable quantities of sludge generated, but several market gardeners have removed the sludge at no cost to the Council, otherwise sludge has to be removed by the Council's wagons and tipped at the refuse tip. The annual cost of electrical energy for pumping sewage is approximately £120 per annum.

Public Health Act.

During the year, 33 privies were abolished and W.C's. provided. Conditions were much improved at Clive Street (West End), Neal Street, Beaumont Terrace, and Leaburn Terrace.

Bad conditions still prevail at Brookhouse Yard, Gordon Terrace, Oak Street, Elm Street, Drawback, River View, Thorncliffe Cottages, where the houses are provided with open ash-pits which are difficult to cleanse. 2 to 3 tons of disinfectant powder is used annually to mitigate nuisance.

At December 31st, 1950, the number of privies in the area was 541, made up chiefly as follows :—

- Eltringham Village—56.
- Mickley Square (Colliery Houses)—114.
- West Wylam (Colliery Houses)—145.

These three areas constitute the hard core of the problem. The number of ash pits is 31. A determined effort should be made to reduce these insanitary types of sanitation as soon as possible.

Public Conveniences.

The Health Committee are responsible for the supervision of the conveniences.

- (1) Branch End for Ladies and Gents.
- (2) Road Ends, Prudhoe, for Ladies and Gents.

The convenience on south road was discontinued and closed up, as it was dark and very insanitary. The other two conveniences are proving to be much appreciated by the public.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The work has been carried out satisfactorily by direct labour, although the last three months of 1950 were bad, due to rain, snow and ice, which resulted in delays of collection, as several parts of the area scavenged are difficult of access, having steep gradients.

The Karrier Bantam Cleansing Vehicles have again given good service.

REGISTRATION NO.	YEAR PURCHASED.
J.V.K. 199	Feb., 1945.
J.V.K. 361	Aug., 1945.
K.B.B. 118	Mar., 1946.
B.J.R. 306	Dec., 1946.

Refuse is deposited in 6 foot layers at West Wylam, and during the year an area of ground north of Oaklands Estate was filled up with house refuse, for use as an open space. The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal was approximately £4,800, which gives an average cost of 35/6 per annum, per premise, or 8 d. per week. The work of refuse collection is slowed down due to the large number of ash privies in use, and also the large amount of residual ash from the poor type of coal.

The cost per ton for refuse removal and disposal was 16/-. The amount of refuse removed was 6,000 tons.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 51 Factories on the Register comprising the following :—

Garages	...	...	...	12
Joiners' and Builders Premises	...	...	...	10
Bakeries	...	...	...	3
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	5
Sanitary Pipes and Bricks	...	...	...	3
Blacksmiths and Light Engineering	...	...	...	2
Battery Charging	...	...	...	3
Chemical Works	...	...	...	1
Sand and Gravel	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	10
				—
				51
				—

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.
INSPECTIONS for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	27	24	1	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	24	21	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	51	45	1	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

PARTICULARS.	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Pro- secutions instituted.
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	5	—	1	—

OUTWORK.

NATURE OF WORK	NO. OF OUT-WORKERS IN AUGUST.
Wearing Apparel. (Making, etc.)	1

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Inspection of meat offered for sale in butchers' shops has been carried out, and 9½ stones of meat were condemned. Meat supplies to the area are from Hexham and Newcastle Abattoirs, and delivered by road. A considerable amount of time has been spent in examination of canned goods, but I have again to report that traders are very co-operative in this matter, any doubtful goods being set aside for my examination.

The Health Department has also been notified of the slaughter of "self supplier's" pigs, so that owners could be advised if there was any abnormal conditions in the slaughtered animals.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. S.13.

I have again to report improvements in respect of washing facilities. The Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food were adopted by the Council during the year and copies were sold at 1/- each.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. S.14.

The number of premises registered under this section is 23, consisting of premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold, and sausages or other meat products are prepared. There is only one ice cream manufacturer, and most of the ice cream is pre-packed and kept in a refrigerator.

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (home killed)	½ stone	—	—
Beef (Imported)	9 „	—	—
Mutton (Imported)	—	—	—
Fruit	80 „	—	—
Canned Goods	424 tins	—	—
Black Pudding and Sausage ...	49 lbs.	—	—
Slab Cake and Bread	24 „	—	—
Sa.ad Cream & Bottled Fruit ...	32 Jars	—	—

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57. There are three licensed slaughter houses in the area. These are available for slaughter of "self supplier's" pigs, and in emergency.

Dairies.

Dairies have been inspected and found satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) RAW MILK REGS., 1949.

No. of licences—1.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED
(MILK REGS., 1949.

No. of Licences—10.

Public Health Act, 1936, S.269. Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The number of licences in force is three.

In one case the structure is coming to the end of its useful life and will have to be closed as a dwelling.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

The amount of repair work to dwelling houses has been as follows :—

Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	...	18
Walls and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
Roofs made weatherproof	...	...	...	...	...	25
Pointing to external walls	...	...	...	...	...	32
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	31
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	32
Doors and window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	40
W.C's. repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Burst water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Yard surfaces renewed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	...	26
Chimney stacks repointed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drains repaired or cleared	...	...	...	...	...	67
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	81

A considerable amount of general repair work has been carried out at Mickley and West Wylam Colliery houses, where brick floors have been taken up and replaced with concrete, also proper ceilings have been provided in living rooms. Pointing and wall plastering has also been done.

The streets in West Wylam and Mickley Square are in need of repair, and the matter has been taken up with the National Coal Board.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

There are three Cinemas in the area. These have been visited and found to be satisfactory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No smoke nuisances were reported during the year. Observations of the various chimneys were made and advice given from time to time.

PESTS ACT, 1949. RODENT CONTROL.

The Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, was superceeded during the year by the Pests Act, 1949. The Pest Act, however, unlike the Rats and Mice Act (which was delegated by the Northumberland C.C.

to the Urban D.C.) is an act for which this Council is responsible. During the year, the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, refuse tips, and sewers, received treatment. The sewers were free of rats, but continuous action was found to be necessary on the refuse tip. Private dwelling houses and business premises were also treated. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries reimburse the local authority in respect of 50% of expenditure.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

28 visits and re-visits were made to premises where infestations of various kinds occurred. Suitable treatment, powder, liquid or gas being used as necessary, being carried out. During my inspection of the area, I find however, that generally the standard of cleanliness in dwelling houses is of a high order.

HOUSING.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING YEAR	WITH STATE ASSISTANCE	UNAIDED	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority, Permanent	20	—	20
Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons : Permanent	2	—	2
Temporary	—	—	—

1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	350
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	95

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	92
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers :

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) No of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —	Nil

(B) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>		
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring defects to be remedied		1
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners —		1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...		Nil
(C) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :</i>		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3)		Nil
(D) <i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:</i>		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		Nil
4.—Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above		Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sec. 20).

(a) Number of separate Dwelling Houses in respect of which application for grant have been received	Nil
(b) Number of separate Dwelling Houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	Nil

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

		By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	33	—	33
	„ „ „ repaired ...	17	—	17
	Pail-Closets abolished ...	—	—	—
	Water Closets provided ...	66	—	66
	Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S.47 ...	33	—	33
	Sanitary Bins provided ...	63	—	63
	„ „ renewed ...	18	—	18
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	59	—	59
	Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	10	—	10
	Additional gullies provided ...	11	—	11
	Old Gullies replaced ...	26	—	26
	Scullery sinks provided ...	31	—	31
	„ waste pipes repaired ...	8	—	8
	„ „ „ trapped ...	22	—	22
	Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	26	—	26
Water Supply	Sources closed or discontinued : None	No. of houses ...	—	—
	New service provided :—			
	(a) By Local Authority ... 20	No. of houses ...	20	20
	(b) By Private Owner ... 2	No. of houses ...	2	2
	Number of dwelling houses supplied by :—			
	(a) internal tap ...	2,460		
	(b) standpipe ...	60		

Conclusion.

The year has shown a steady improvement in matters affecting the Health Department, to which previous reference has already been made. The work in the office has been efficiently carried out by Miss J. Gray, Shorthand Typist and Clerk.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. TWEDDLE,
Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

	No. of Inspect-ions during year.	No. of Defects or Contra-ventions of Bye-Laws.	No. of INFORMAL Notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	No. of STATUTORY Notices served.	Legal Pro-ceedings.
HOUSING—						
Structural Defects ...		33	33	30	1	—
Defective Food Store ...		15	15	15	—	—
Dampness ...	350	29	29	26	—	—
Overcrowding ...		6	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY- (Insufficient) (Unsatisfactory) }	29	12	12	12	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE— (Insufficient) (Unsatisfactory) }	240	39	33	42	—	—
		14	14	14	—	—
SANITARY (Insufficient) (Defective) }	242	33	27	36	—	—
CONVENIENCES— (Defective) }		37	37	37	—	—
Food Premises ...	90	16	16	16	—	—
Shops Acts ...	31	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies ...	9	2	2	2	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	21	2	2	2	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	12	1	1	1	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ...	45	5	1	4	—	—
Keeping of Animals ...	50	6	—	6	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles ...	139	40	—	50	—	—
Offensive accumulations ...	37	8	2	8	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1,299	298	221	301	1	—

